THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up an Inter-State Council under Article 263 o the Constitution under consideraf tion.

Chinese aid to Pakistan in the Nuclear Field

266. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Pong's announcement during his recent visit to Pakistan that China would be providing a 300 MW nuclear power reactor to Pakistan: and

(b) whether Government propose to take up this issue with China in view of Pakistan going ahead with its nuclear weapons oriented programme?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government have been reports to this effect. Reportedly this reactor will be under IAEA safeguards.

(b) Government's concern regarding the weapons orientation of Pakistan's nuclear programme will known to all concerned, including the Chinese Government. Many other countries share this concern.

Security Measures for Prime Minister

267. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of Home AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has decided to discard all security measures for himself; and

(b) if so, whether the special Protection Group (S.P.G.) and National Security Guards (N.S.G.) etc. are likely to be disbanded?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. The Govt. has decided to withdraw ostentatious security.

(b) No; Sir.

Passport applications of ex-Members of Parliament

268. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is avoidable delay in Delhi in issuing passports; to ex- Members of Parliament;

(b) Whether police verification is required before issuing passports and if so, whether it is a fact that the police enquiry takes quite a long time;

(c) if so, what is the number of applications for fresh passports/ renewal/extensions received from ex-Members of Parliament and pending in Delhi as on date; and

(d) what steps are being taken for the prompt disposal of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Verification from the concerned State Government was hitherto required before issuing passports. The procedure has been reviewed and verification is no longer necessary in such cases. This should speed up issuance of Passports to. former Members of Parliament.

(c) No separate data is kept about applications for fresh passports or

miscellaneous services received from ex-Members of Parliament.

(d) With the new procedure it is planned that these applications will be disposed within five working days.

निजी बसों के चलाये जाने से दिल्ली परिवहन निगम को घाटा

269. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली परिवहन निगम के कर्मचारियों द्वारा की गई पिछली हड़ताल के दौरान निजी बसें चलाने के लिए की गई व्यवस्था अभी भी चालू है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इस व्यवस्था के कारण दिल्ली परिवहन निगम को वित्तीय नुकसान हो रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस व्यवस्था के अन्तर्गत प्रत्येक बस से प्रति माह कितना नुकसान हो रहा है; और

(घ) इस व्यवस्था के कब तक बदले जाने की संभावना है?

जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्री तथा संचार मंत्री (श्री के० पी० उन्नीकृष्णन) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) दिल्ली परिवहन निगम प्राइवेट बसों के प्रचालन में वित्तीय रूप से संबद्ध नहीं है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) इस समय केन्द्र सरकार के सामने वर्तमान व्यवस्था में किसी प्रकार का परिवर्तन करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Opening of Branch Office of Pakistan Embassy at Bombay

270. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to persuade the Pakistan Government to open a branch of Pakistan Embassy at Bombay to cater the visa needs of Indian citizens ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Government have no objection to the Pakistan Government opening a Consulate General in Bombay. The decision in regard to timing rests with the Government of Pakistan.

Improving the South-South Cooperation

271. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what specific steps are being taken to improve South-South Cooperation to defuse the regional tensions in the world ;

(b) what role Government envisage for SAARC in the South-South Cooperation ; and

(c) what new initiatives have been taken up by India to enlarge the scope of SAARC movement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) South-South Cooperation is an instrument for accelerating development, for promoting collective self-reliance of the developing countries in the economic fields and for enhancing their bargaining position in the North-South dialogue. In certain circumstances, it can also help in defusing regional